

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **A Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-61 (cancelled).

62. (new): A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising:
- a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or
  - a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or
  - a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
63. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18.
64. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
65. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 64, wherein said protein corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana* further comprises atSRp30 activity, when overexpressed, to a truncated mRNA-isoform of an atSRp34/SR1 protein.

66. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
67. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 66, wherein the nucleic acid molecule binds to the nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18, or is complementary thereto, under stringent conditions.
68. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 67, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a splice protein active in plants.
69. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid molecule is comprised in an expression vector.
70. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 69, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
71. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 70, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
72. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 71, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
73. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a cell.
74. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 73, wherein the cell is a plant cell.
75. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a plant.

76. (new): A recombinant vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule including:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
77. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 76, wherein the vector is biologically functional.
78. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 76, further comprising a promoter.
79. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 78, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
80. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 79, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
81. (new): A transgenic plant or plant cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule including:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18, or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.

82. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 81, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.
83. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 82, wherein the vector is an expression vector.
84. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 83, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
85. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 84, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
86. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
87. (new): A method of changing the splicing properties of a plant or a plant cell comprising using a nucleic acid molecule that comprises:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
88. (new): The method of claim 87, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.
89. (new): The method of claim 88, wherein the vector is an expression vector.

90. (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
91. (new): The method of claim 90, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
92. (new): The method of claim 91, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
93. (new): A method of changing the development behavior of a plant or a plant cell comprising using a nucleic acid molecule that comprises:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
94. (new): The method of claim 93, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.
95. (new): The method of claim 94, wherein said change of said development behavior is a retardation of flower formation.
96. (new): The method of claim 95, wherein said flower formation is retarded by at least 15% relative to a wild-type of said plant.
97. (new): The method of claim 96, wherein said flower formation is retarded by at least 25% relative to a wild-type of said plant.
98. (new): The method of claim 93, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.

99. (new): The method of claim 98, wherein the vector is an expression vector.
100. (new): The method of claim 99, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
101. (new): The method of claim 100, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
102. (new): The method of claim 101, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.